GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1094
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IT Awareness in Rural Areas
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce cyber cafes in rural areas of the country;
(b) if so, the details there of;
(c) the action taken by Government to increase the IT awareness in rural areas of the country;
(d) whether the Government proposes to introduce the software and Internet websites in Indian regional language on a large scale;
(e) if so, the details thereof;
(f) whether the Government proposes to increase the internet connectivity in the State of Kerala considering the most profitable BSNL circle in the country and if so, the action taken thereon; and
(g) whether the Government proposes to use the IT for helping villagers in the areas of education, training, health-care, agriculture etc., and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

(a) and (b): The Government does not propose to introduce cyber cafes in rural areas. The Government has rolled out Common Services Centres(CSC) at 1,21,963 Gram Panchayats till February 2016. It is envisaged to set up at least one CSC in each of 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats over a period of four years. The Government has approved India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) for promotion of BPO/ITES operations across the country including small towns and rural areas for balanced growth of Information Technology & Information Technology Enabled Services (IT/ITES) sector in each State.

(c): The Government is implementing two schemes viz. National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM) and Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA) to provide digital literacy to the masses with a cumulative target of training 52.5 lakh persons. So far, under these two Schemes more than 50 lakh candidates have been enrolled, 38.61 lakh trained and 15.64 lakh certified.

(d) and (e): Government of India has developed Fonts, Unicode Typing Tool and Localised Libre Office for 22 recognized Indian languages which can be used to create websites in Indian Regional Languages. These software and tools are available free of cost at http://www.ildc.in

(f): BSNL is constantly taking steps to increase broadband penetration in the State of Kerala. Till date 80 Wi-Fi Hotspots have been provided at 30 locations in Kerala and by March 2016, 80 more Hotspots are expected to be installed. In addition, BSNL has also planned to install around 3,500 Wi-Fi hotspots for Wi-Fi offload in Kerala.

(g): CSC Portal is an interface of integrated service access portals of different departments / organizations. Various Government to Citizen (G2C) and Business to Citizen (B2C) services etc. can be delivered through CSCs, if the respective departments / organizations allow integration of their service portals with CSC portal. The CSCs are offering various services like:

- Government to Citizen(G2C) Services : UID Enrolment and E-Aadhaar Printing Services, Election Commission of India (EC) Services, Passport Services, Issue of certificates, Land records, Collection of Land revenue, Registration, Employment Exchange, etc
- Business to Citizen (B2C) Services : Mobile Recharge, Mobile Bill Payment, DTH Recharge, Money Transfer, Data Card Recharge , CSC Bazaar, LIC Premium, Bus ticketing, SBI Life, Bill Cloud, IRCTC Service (through IRCTC authorized centres), etc
- Educational Services: Adult Literacy, Education and training, Digital Literacy, etc.

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